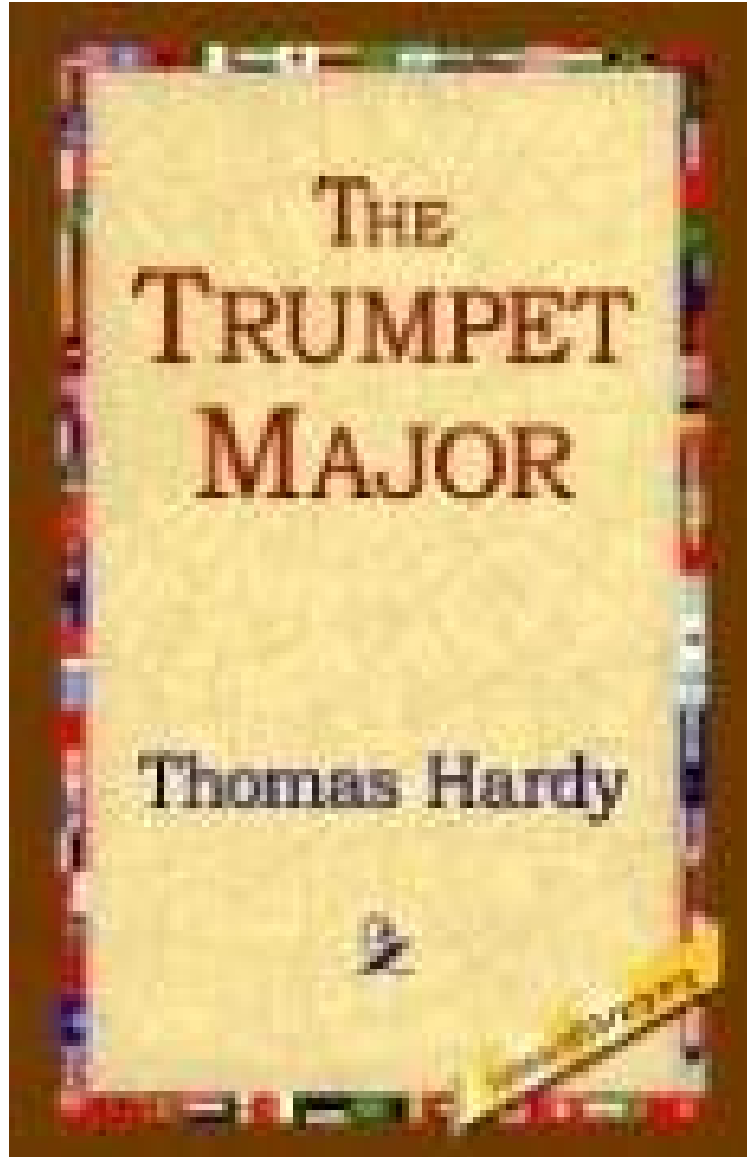


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The Trumpet Major

Thomas Hardy

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Thomas Hardy : The Trumpet Major before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Trumpet Major:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not in same league as Tess D'uberville.By bambooI would give any novel Thomas Hardy wrote at least three stars just for his superb language, his historical accuracy, and his enthralling portrait of Wessex. But the characters in this novel just don't compel empathy (e.g. the Festus Derriman character is too decerebrate to take seriously and Anne Garland proves as decisive as the princess bride). At the end of the day, the

story is about as effective as Napoleon's invasion of England.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Historical HardyBy PhedippidesThomas Hardy's historical novel about the Napoleonic threat to Britain in the early Nineteenth Century. The time different, the feeling of impending war, disruption of normal life, and yet human life proceeds, is always contemporary. Just a beautiful story of people that so real you miss them at the end.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love all Thomas Hardy books but this one is taking ...By D. ShorttLove all Thomas Hardy books but this one is taking a long time to get through. I am enjoying it anyway because of his descriptive writing. I can "see" the scenery and people.

The present tale is founded more largely on testimony - oral and written - than any other in this series. The external incidents which direct its course are mostly an unexaggerated reproduction of the recollections of old persons well known to the author in childhood, but now long dead, who were eye-witnesses of those scenes. If wholly transcribed their recollections would have filled a volume thrice the length of 'The Trumpet-Major.' Down to the middle of this century, and later, there were not wanting, in the neighbourhood of the places more or less clearly indicated herein, casual relics of the circumstances amid which the action moves - our preparations for defence against the threatened invasion of England by Buonaparte. An outhouse door riddled with bullet-holes, which had been extempo-rized by a solitary man as a target for firelock practice when the landing was hourly expected, a heap of bricks and clods on a beacon-hill, which had formed the chimney and walls of the hut occupied by the beacon-keeper, worm-eaten shafts and iron heads of pikes for the use of those who had no better weapons, ridges on the down thrown up during the encampment, fragments of volunteer uniform, and other such lingering remains, brought to my imagination in early childhood the state of affairs at the date of the war more vividly than volumes of history could have done.

About the AuthorThomas Hardy was a poet and novelist of the naturalist movement. He trained as an architect. He was a religious man who was also deeply influenced by Darwin and fascinated by ghosts and spirits.During his lifetime, he was best known for his novels. His stories combine nuanced description of natural surroundings with the sense of impending moral crisis. He claimed that poetry was his first love, though, and in recent years his poetry has received much critical acclaim.From AudioFileHarkening back to the Wessex of an earlier Napoleonic period, Hardy's novel creates a homely world of likeable, though sometimes dull folk, anxious to get on with the business of falling in love despite the threat of imminent landing by the French. With a seemingly infinite range of voices Benjamin Whitrow recreates each of them as only this trained English actor could. Hardy and Whitrow combine to create a world of charming local types: the gentle miller and his two sons; the crude but scheming Festus Derriman and his delightfully miserly uncle, old farmer Derriman; and the beautiful object of all their attentions, sweet Anne Garland. For readers used to Hardy's star-crossed characters, this romance is a delightful discovery. P.A.J.
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